

REMARKS

Claims 1-19, 22-24, 26-29 and 32-38 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-10, 16-18, 23-24, 28-29 and 32-34 are currently amended. Claims 35-38 have been added as new. Claims 20-21, 25 and 30-31 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added. Support for these amendments may be found through the specification as originally filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Tung Vo for the interview held June 14, 2006 with Applicants' Attorney of record, Gregory A. Stobbs and Yoshinobu Idogawa, during which the cited references and a proposed amended claim were discussed. The examiner indicated that the amended claim distinguished over the prior art and it was agreed that the applicants would amend all independent claims in accordance with the proposed claim discussed during the interview.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-11, 16-19, 22-24 and 30-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schofield et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,498,620 B2) in view of Kumamoto Kenji (Japanese Pat. No. 10-257482). Claims 4, 11-15 and 26-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schofield et al. in view of Kumamoto Kenji in view of Shimizu (U.S. Pat. No. 5,796,991). Claims 28 and 29 stand

rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumamoto Kenji in view of Shum et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,271,847). Claims 1, 7 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daily et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,317,127) in view of Kumamoto Kenji. These rejection are respectfully traversed.


As set forth in the amended independent claims, the applicants invention presents a synthetic image including the vehicle and its surroundings arranged in a manner as looked down from a virtual viewpoint. The cited references do not have this "downward looking" virtual viewpoint.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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